

of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW), including consideration of training requirements for maritime pilots;

3. Maritime safety training for personnel on Mobile Offshore Units (MOU/MODUs);

4. Bulk carrier safety;

5. Training record books; and

6. Guidance associated with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F Convention, as adopted by the 1995 conference; not yet ratified or in force).

Members of the public may attend the meeting up to the seating capacity of the room. Interested persons may seek information by writing: Mr. Christopher Young, U.S. Coast Guard (G-MOS-1), Room 1210, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001 or by calling: (202) 267-0229.

Dated: October 16, 1997.

Stephen M. Miller,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. 301-115]

Initiation of Section 302 Investigation and Request for Public Comment: Korean Barriers to Auto Imports

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of initiation of investigation; request for written comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Trade Representative (USTR) has initiated an investigation under section 302(b)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the Trade Act), with respect to certain acts, policies and practices of the Government of the Republic of Korea that pose barriers to imports of U.S. autos into the Korean market. USTR invites written comments on the matters being investigated.

DATES: This investigation was initiated on October 20, 1997. Written comments from interested persons are due on or before noon on Tuesday, December 2, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sean Murphy, Office of Asia and the

Pacific, (202) 395-6813, or GERALYN Ritter, Office of the General Counsel, (202) 395-6800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Executive Order No. 12901 of March 3, 1994, as extended by Executive Order No. 12973 of September 27, 1995, regarding the "Super 301" annual review, provides for the USTR to identify priority foreign country practices, the elimination of which is likely to have the most significant potential to increase United States exports, either directly or through the establishment of a beneficial precedent. Accordingly, on October 1, 1997, the USTR identified as a "priority foreign country practice" the Government of the Republic of Korea's barriers to auto imports. (See 62 FR 52604 of October 8, 1997). Specific Korean practices of concern include an array of cumulative tariff and tax disincentives that disproportionately affect imports, onerous and costly auto standards and certification procedures, auto financing restrictions, and a climate of bias against imported vehicles that Korean officials have not effectively addressed. While some of these barriers were addressed in a 1995 bilateral agreement between the United States and Korea, implementation of that agreement has been disappointing, especially as new practices have been introduced that undermine the 1995 agreement. Furthermore, imported passenger vehicles continue to represent less than one percent of the Korean market. Although some progress was made during recent bilateral negotiations to improve market access in Korea for foreign automobiles, Korea was not prepared to undertake the reforms which are necessary for real opening of its autos market.

Investigation and Consultations

Executive Order No. 12901 requires the USTR to initiate an investigation, pursuant to section 302(b)(1)(A) of the Trade Act, of any "priority foreign country practices." On October 20, 1997, the USTR initiated an investigation with respect to certain acts, policies and practices of the Government of the Republic of Korea that pose barriers to imports of U.S. autos into the Korean market. Pursuant to section 303(a) of the Trade Act, the USTR will seek consultations with the Government of Korea concerning the issues under investigation. USTR will seek information and advice from the appropriate representatives provided for under section 135 of the Trade Act in preparing the U.S. presentations for such consultations.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the acts, policies and practices of the Government of Korea that are the subject of this investigation, including the amount of burden or restriction on U.S. commerce caused by these acts, policies and practices, and the determinations required under section 304 of the Trade Act regarding whether they are actionable under section 301 and, if affirmative, the appropriate action to take in response.

Comments must be filed in accordance with the requirements set forth in 15 CFR § 2006.8(b) and are due no later than noon on Tuesday, December 2, 1997. Comments must be in English and provided in twenty copies to: Office of the General Counsel, Attn: Korea Auto Investigation, Room 223, USTR, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508.

Comments will be placed in a file (Docket 301-115) open to public inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2006.13, except confidential business information exempt from public inspection in accordance with 15 CFR 2006.15. Confidential business information submitted in accordance with 15 CFR 1006.15 must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page on each of 20 copies, and must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. The Nonconfidential summary shall be placed in the file that is open to public inspection. An appointment to review the docket (Docket No. 301-115) may be made by calling Brenda Webb (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and is located in Room 101.

Irving A. Williamson,

Chairman, Section 301 Committee.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

September 21, 1997.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13. Copies of the submission(s)